



Illinois Employment Report

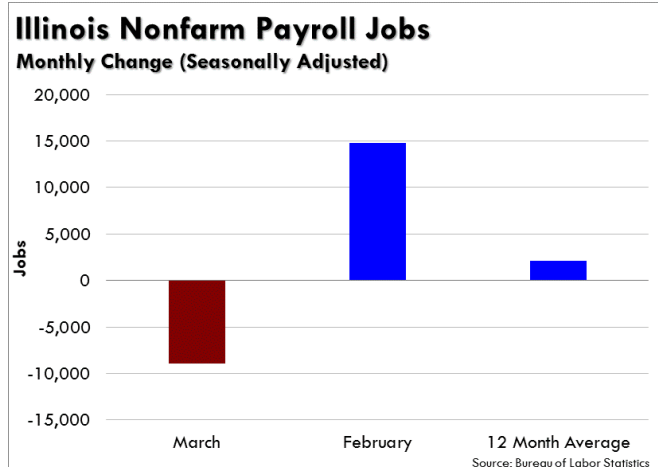
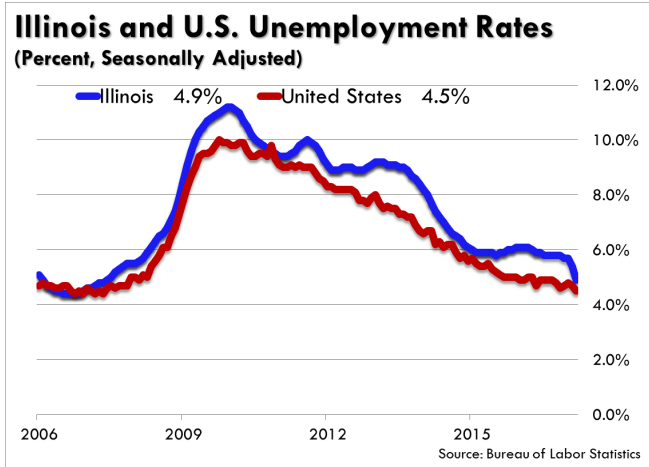
Joint Economic Committee

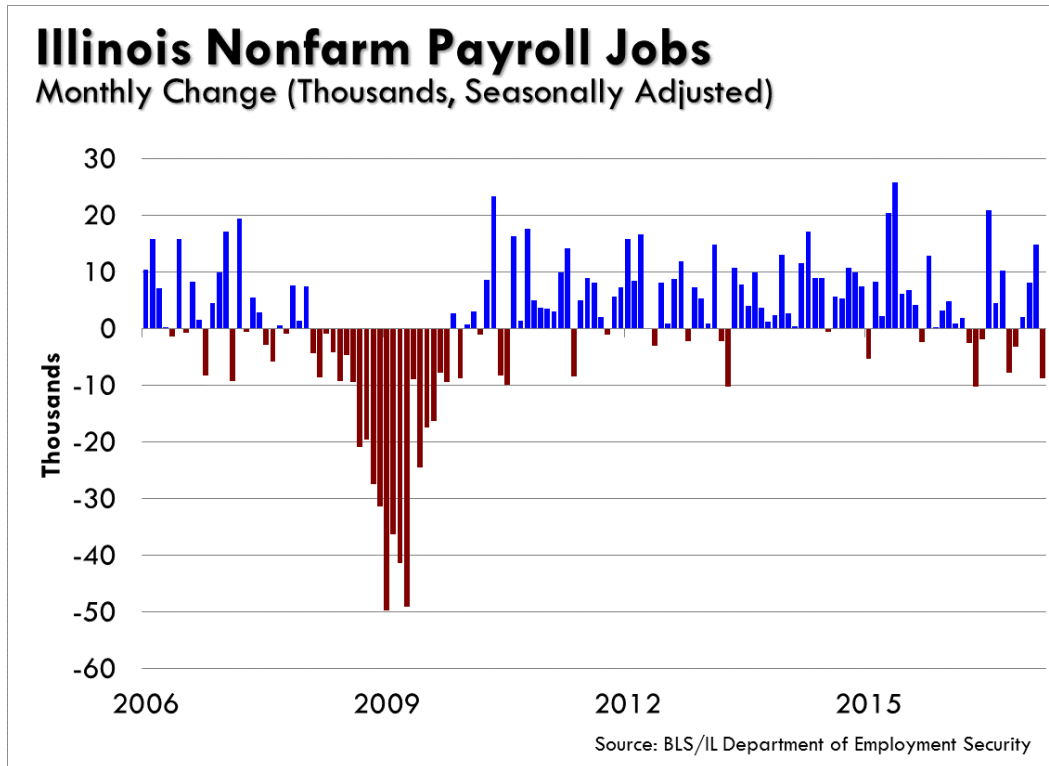
Representative Pat Tiberi, Chairman

April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Illinois lost 8,900 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.5 percentage point to 4.9 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Illinois added 25,500 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points from 6.1 percent.
- **In March, Illinois's private sector lost 7,000 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 29,300 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Illinoisans fell by 29,493 in March**, and over the past year 37,378 Illinoisans found jobs.
- Illinois's **labor force participation rate remains unchanged** from 65 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.4 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Illinois Payroll Employment

Illinois lost 8,900 jobs, or 0.15 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Illinois added 14,800 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Illinois increased by 25,500, or 0.42 percent. Illinois nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

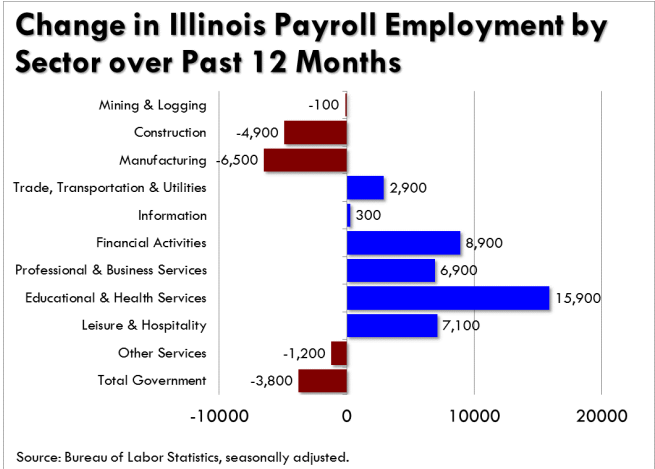
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Illinois ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Illinois's private-sector lost 7,000 jobs, or 0.13 percent. The private-sector in Illinois added 17,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Illinois increased by 29,300, or 0.57 percent. Illinois private-sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Illinois ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Leisure & Hospitality (+4,200) and Other Services (+1,300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-7,100) and Professional & Business Services (-3,600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+15,900) and Financial Activities (+8,900). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-6,500) and Construction (-4,900).



Illinois Labor Force Statistics

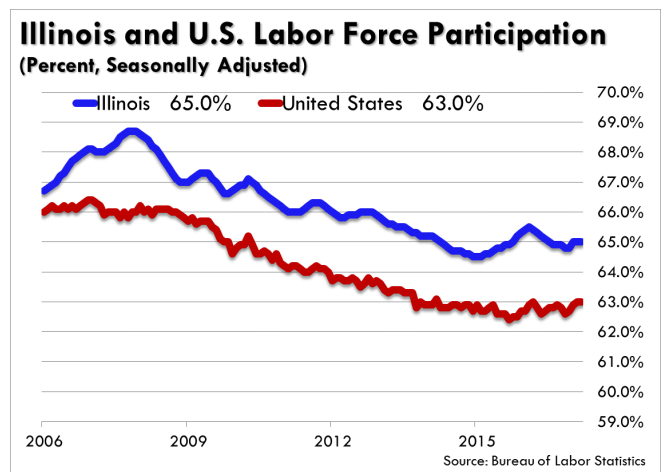
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Illinois was unchanged at 65.0 percent in March. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 18 have a higher labor force participation rate than Illinois. The labor force participation rate in Illinois is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Illinois was 68.7 percent in December 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Illinois occurred in April 2000 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.8 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.5 percent in February 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in December 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.8 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Illinois civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 61.8 percent in March from 61.5 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 21 have higher employment-to-



population ratios than Illinois. The employment-to-population ratio in Illinois is 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Illinois was 65.0 percent in October 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Illinois occurred in February 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.9 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.2 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 56.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

